



CLIFFS NATURAL RESOURCES INC.

Cliffs Erie LLC - Hoyt Lakes Plant

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December 10, 2012

Ms. Stephanie Handeland
Water Quality Permits
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St Paul, MN 55155

RE: Cliffs Erie, LLC – Variance Addendum for NPDES/SDS Permit #MN0042536

Dear Ms. Handeland:

Enclosed you will find a variance addendum for Cliffs Erie Hoyt Lakes Mining Area surface discharge stations SD026 and SD033, which are covered under NPDES/SDS Permit No. MN0042536. This information is being submitted based on conversations with the MPCA regarding the April 3, 2012 submittal of the updated NPDES/SDS Permit applications. The contents of this addendum include the following:

- Additional financial information;
- An updated SD033 implementation schedule;
- An updated SD026 variance application, including EPA Interim Economic Guidance Worksheets; and
- An updated SD033 variance application, including EPA Interim Economic Guidance Worksheets.

If you have any questions, please advise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig Hartmann".

Craig Hartmann
Area Manager - Facilities

cc: Richard Clark, MPCA, St. Paul
John Thomas, MPCA, Duluth
Kevin Pylka, PolyMet Mining, Inc.